

## CAPITAL CLICKINGS.

## Pencil Picturings of Affairs at Austin as They are Focused by Gazette Reporters.

Austin, March 19.—The report of the secretary of the board of education, recently issued by ex-Secretary O. N. Hollingsworth, is said to be the most extensive piece of compilation ever issued by the state. The cost of printing was about \$5,300.

When it became known Saturday morning that the GAZETTE house reporter had possession of the roll with the "yes" and "noes" taken the day previous on the penitentiary lease question, he became at once the object of attention from some of the "leisurely" gentlemen about the corridors of the capitol. Failing to convince the GAZETTE's obdurate young man that the only desire to possess that particular document arose from mere idle and harmless curiosity on their part, a second canvass of the house was attempted; but alas, it was too late. The members became suspicious and refused to discuss the lease bill until it shall come up in the house. Meantime the GAZETTE man has carefully locked up and will preserve that roll, to be used, possibly, in his proposed forthcoming book to be entitled "Sixty Days in the Lobby."

A bill is now before the legislature to change the charter of the city of Austin, and this calls to mind the too common practice in legislation of passing local measures without proper consideration. Under this practice great hardships are often forced upon whole communities by a few interested parties. For instance, a bill affecting an entire community is drafted, introduced and, sometimes, passed without being printed or read, simply upon the statement of a member that the bill "is purely local and affects only my town or county." And this is called "legislative courtesy." The bill alluded to practically re-enacts a charter for this city, which was annulled in answer to a petition of citizens, but the most objectionable feature in the new law is that it provides for making every office in the city appointive and places this vast patronage in a dangerous power in the hands of the mayor. The argument in favor of this proposed change is the economic feature; that it forces the aldermen to serve without pay and reduces the mayor's salary to a figure merely nominal. This idea would not be objectionable perhaps to the people of a debt-burdened city but in the classic language of a member of the house, "there is a large-sized bug under this dainty chip." Austin has always been cursed by "rings," and this proposed new charter only seeks to perpetuate and make even stronger that ring rule. The candidate for mayor under this new charter has already been selected; he is a man who can afford to serve the city for the "honor" in the thing. While of course, as a natural sequence the officers to be appointed by this truly "honorary" mayor have already been selected, there is still another potent factor behind this bill which is "purely local and affects my city only." The GAZETTE, however, refrains from particulars, and will not discuss the probable control of the \$100,000 worth of bonds to be issued for sewers alone, the outstanding indebtedness of extremely "doubtful validity," nor has it the least desire to question the prosperity of the quiet little plan to throttle the old *no populi* by denying the people the right to elect their officers and rearing an autocratic power in one single majestic individual to select for them. As the GAZETTE at present has seven or eight hundred readers in Austin, these allusions are made merely as "pointers;" perhaps the line of thought may be taken up where the GAZETTE abruptly left off.

The politics of the future are already being discussed at the capital. Among the suggestions promulgated by the ever busy *quid nuncs*, is one which names Hon. W. C. Walsh, general land commissioner, as the next governor. He is extremely popular with all the members of the legislature, and there are not a few who believe if he desires the position he will be one among the strongest men in the next race if he be not successful. The friends of Hon. C. R. Gibson, speaker of the house, are already canvassing his chances for lieutenant-governor. Some of the friends of the late railroad bill think Mr. Gibson has spoiled his chances for future promotion by the prominent part he has taken by the introduction of his substitute bill. They claim that the substitute was framed for the purpose of killing the bill, that it is a mere subterfuge to prevent needed railroad regulation, and for that reason "the people" will not forgive him. This is merely speculation in futures, however, and most probably arises from the ascriptions of the hour.

The members are becoming impatient and "want to go home." Most of the legislation now being enacted is done without a quorum.

The penitentiary leases are all the talk now, and are creating no small amount of speculation as to the final result. Members are hearing from their constituents, and a prominent senator remarked yesterday that if a vote were to be taken over again in the senate he believed the leases would fail. As the house stands at present there is little doubt but that a majority favor the abrogation of the lease, but that majority is much divided as to the reasons for such opposition. Some desire the state to assume control now, others think it best to make a short lease of say two or four years until the state can get in better condition to resume, while others desire to break the present lease with a view to making a better one at once. The leases have the prestige of the popularity of Roberts and Lubbock, the approval if not the aid of Governor Ireland behind them, besides one of the strongest and best trained lobbies ever seen at the capitol. Under these circumstances, and being a question difficult for the average legislator to master, the final result is shrouded in very much doubt.

During this week the appropriation bill will be acted upon by the senate and the land bill by the house. With these two measures disposed of, it will be hard to hold the solons here. For that reason, probably, a good many important bills will be left unattended to, among them the reformatory bill which has already passed the senate,

the occupation tax bill, the railroad bill and others.

The fight between the lease and sale members of the house will be to go over again, as the first session of the land bill is now tied up by a motion to reconsider. It is understood that the anti-lease men are gathering new forces and will make a stronger fight next time.

Senator Davis of Cooke has acquired notoriety, if not fame, by the persistency with which he attacks the senator from Travis. A more powerful adversary in debate than Senator Terrell would be hard to find, and the constant and repeated invitations to battle extended by the senator from Cooke exhibit nerve if not discretion. The monotony of the senate proceedings was broken Saturday by a tilt between the two, which, while it resulted disastrously to Davis as a forerunner combat, allowed the latter to get off a good thing at the expense of the seemingly much despised and little understood university. He likened that institution to a kangaroo, with a head on University hill at Austin, one foot in Galveston, another at Bryan, its tail wrapped around the colored normal school at Prairie View and both of its paws in the public treasury. Of course this brought down the house, as the saying goes. Terrell's reply was merciless, but Davis got a slap at the "rich man's school" and the laugh on the senator from Travis, and that was all he wanted.

## DENTON COUNTY.

Correspondence of the Gazette.

Pilot Point, March 20.—Mrs. Phalin had some money and a pistol stolen from her house last evening. It is thought that the thief will be captured.

J. W. Erwin of the grocery house of Erwin & Co., left this morning for Tennessee. A telegram stating the dangerous illness of his father hurried him away.

The home of P. M. Wellborn has been saddened by the arrival of a young daughter.

Constable Glasscock arrested John Durham last Saturday for failing to pay a fine ordered by the court some time ago, charged with having the festive pistol in his possession.

R. W. Beaumont, representing Joe Brown's wholesale grocery house, was taken sick today but will be kindly cared for by the good lady who knows just how to take care of guests at the Edwards House.

Uncle John Morgan found a Texas specialty snugly stowed away in the bedclothes a few nights since, and in the attempt to remove it the large lissituous centipede twisted its lengthy form around his finger piercing it with its poisonous fangs. The proper remedies were applied and he is on the way of recovery.

J. H. Wilson, of the firm of Wilson & Hong, cigar manufacturers, Gainesville, was in town Tuesday in the interest of their house.

W. S. M. Shan, of the firm of Davidson & Co., has returned from St. Louis.

Rev. J. W. Atkinson is in Sherman this week to assist in a revival meeting.

Rev. D. R. Grafton, of Denton, occupied the Cumberland pulpit last Sunday.

Col. M. M. Slaughter and the popular clerk of Wilson & Co., J. A. L. McFarland, are in Denton as jurors.

If from the large stocks of new goods received daily by our merchants is an index of the business to be transacted this spring, we shall have lively times.

Elder Smith of the Christian Messenger, Bonham, Texas, was in the city and preached in the Christian church Tuesday.

W. P. Doran left Monday morning for St. Louis.

Registered at the Edwards House: John Haven, Denison; A. A. Burney, Bonham; A. A. Fielden, St. Louis; C. Moltz, Sherman; E. Smith, Sherman; R. W. Beaumont, Fort Worth; G. W. Stewart, Sherman; I. Sigon, St. Louis; Miss M. E. Somers, St. Joe, Mo.; R. F. Hendricks, Galveston.

Pilot Point Hotel: W. W. Sinnige, Fort Worth; S. Gee, Denton; Tex.; T. Bates, Aubrey, Tex.; J. Mann, Mustang, Tex.; McGoy, Denton, Tex.; Jim Johnson, city; Thos. Smith, city; C. M. Grinnard, Galveston; John Ervine, Wise county, Tex.; H. Merchant, Baird city, Tex.; Mrs. V. E. White, Willsburg, Tenn.; W. G. Wallace, McKinney, Tex.; Higginbottom, Pilot Grove; E. Frank, Gainesville.

## CLEBURNE.

Amusements—Conversations—Personal Mention and News Notes.

Correspondence of the Gazette.

Cleburne, March 20.—The Golden Troupe played "The Daughter of the Regiment" to a good audience last night. "The French Spy" holds the boards to-night, "Married Life" to-morrow night.

There were two conversions at the Methodist church last night, both ladies above forty years of age.

Mrs. A. McHenry, who has been visiting her daughter, Mrs. J. D. Bryan, during the winter, leaves for her home in Iowa to-morrow.

Messrs. H. S. Wilson, L. M. Gugenheim and Dr. J. R. Keating, all prominent citizens are announced as candidates for aldermen respectively in the First, Second and Third wards.

Mr. T. W. Mayes, proprietor of the Pearl saloon, gave a gift-edged bond today, in the matter of an attachment sued out by a St. Louis firm, and re-opened the Pearl.

Mr. A. J. Haley, deputy United States marshal, who ran the attachment on the Pearl saloon, returns to Dallas to-night.

County court, civil term, is in session. It is now transacting probate business.

Arrangements are being made to tender Mr. C. S. Healy, the manager of the Texas Express Company in Cleburne, and his bride, a grand reception at the opera-house on Friday night, March 30th. It will be the social event of the season. Fort Worth is invited to send representatives.

## For Rent.

The building known as Cassidy & Co's. saloon, second door west of the Local Option saloon. Will be rented for a saloon only. Apply to E. Kuhn, at Tivoli Hall. 3-15-11.

## SLADE ON HIS RAMBLES.

We were a jolly gang who chartered the bridal chamber of the west-bound sleeper—five of us in all, and this numerical strength of ours enabled us to put on a deal of style at a very small outlay of capital per capita. "Jimmy" Brannon with his ever cheerful face, Howard Peake with his never ceasing flow of songs and jokes, Andrew Bateman and Oscar Seligman with their many social qualities, and I to look after them all in a motherly kind of way. Who can imagine that we spend a dull moment? Songs, jokes and general merriment beguiled the time (when we were not sleeping), and before we were aware of the fact or felt inclined to separate for business, the porter shouted,

"COLORADO CITY" and we awoke amid the general bustle and confusion and amid the braying of a brass band. Just how the citizens of Colorado knew I was on that particular train I can't say. The conductor may have telegraphed them that I was aboard. At any rate it was evident that they knew of my coming for was there not a large concourse of citizens with a brass band to receive me, and thus I was again disappointed in my endeavor to travel unostentatiously and without public demonstration. I merely lifted my hat to the clamoring crowd and making my way through a dense mass of people we sought a hotel. As we walked along I was shocked to hear Jim Brannon say in sort of semi-soliloquy "Well I can't see for the life of me how those people knew I was on that train and yet there they were with a brass band to receive me. Well, well; such annoyances are but a tax levied on greatness and I must submit to it, I suppose."

I merely looked at him with silent contempt. The idea that he should imagine all this demonstration was for him.

But I must tell you of Colorado City. It is just the liveliest kind of a bustling town with some several inhabitants. I never heard how many. It is situated on the historic Colorado river about forty miles from its head. It is the home of the stockmen and is surrounded by a country devoted exclusively to grazing. Cattle cover the adjacent prairies and browse up to the very edge of the town. This little city is beautifully situated and from the gentle hill-side on which most of the residences stand, a view may be had of the angry Colorado dashing its murky water against the wave-worn rocks, and if you are in a dreamy mood you can easily imagine a ruined castle fitting its battlements from the frowning cliffs. But the only evidences that this spot has ever been inhabited are the worn holes which the coyote, the owl and the rattle-snake but recently abandoned being frightened away by the scream of the locomotive, Colorado has an elegant stone court-house, a substantial jail, two good banks, a good hotel, a great number of substantial business firms and just thirteen hundred and ninety-one saloons. I never counted the saloons but I put a low estimate on them. My partner "Jimmy" says there are 1392 saloons, but I think he must have gone into one twice. He went in by himself first, looked in the mirror behind the bar to see if his cravat was straight, counted the saloons, started out, met a friend at the door who wanted to see the bar-keeper about something, went back with his friend, interviewed the bar-keeper, and as he walked out counted the saloon a second time and thus got mixed up as to the number of them.

My duties here, the hurry and confusion attendant upon the stock convention and the short time I had to stay prevented my getting very extensively acquainted, but I remember there are some good business firms. Lawson, Smith & Co. have I believe the largest and most varied stock of goods in town. The Rendrebrook House is by far the best hotel out west. Mrs. Dunn the proprietress evidently knows how a hotel should be run for the establishment is well patronized and guests leave well pleased.

Tallant & Hall, perhaps the best known saloon men in the state have the finest saloon in Colorado City. They have a large commodious building and it is said they always keep well stocked with the best in the market.

Mr. W. H. Wiggins formerly of your county also has an elegant saloon and treats his customers with frank courtesy and good whiskey. I haven't space to speak of the other 1388 saloons and numerous good business firms.

The hospitality of the citizens of Colorado is unbounded. They gave a grand ball and banquet in honor of my visit to the city. True, the invitations didn't say anything about the ball being given as a compliment to me, but the committee who got the tickets evidently knew how modest I am, so they left my name off and put "complimentary to the Colorado & Brazos Stock Association" on the tickets instead.

"Jimmy" Brannon and I wanted to attend that ball, but there was an obstacle in the way. Upon taking an inventory it was found that our joint wardrobe did not contain as much as two clean shirts. After discussing the situation at some length we arrived at a conclusion. Brannon's "grip" contained a solitary shirt with an immaculate front. Brannon could go to bed while I attended the ball, and then after awhile I could come back, go to bed and let him have the shirt and go to the ball.

This plan worked well, and we took in the ball very satisfactorily. True the shirt when it came my turn to wear it was not as spotless as it had been, Brannon having exercised himself rather violently in the ball room, which caused him to perspire profusely and wash some of the starch out of our joint garment. His front, which was not tamely adorned to advantage. This, however, was a small matter and I should have had no ill-regardings over the affair had not Brannon afterwards attempted to levy blackmail on me by threatening to tell that I borrowed his shirt if I didn't set up the cigars. In fact he did tell every crowd we got into that I was wearing his clothes. Of course the crowd would then insist that I was at no expense for wearing apparel I could readily afford to treat to cigars.

Brannon lied so extravagantly about the matter that the recording angel must have had to write in short hand in order to keep his deeds properly booked. He denied bitterly that he had to go to bed while this shirt was being washed and that the chinaman kept him in bed two hours after the work was done in order to effect a compromise. Brannon refusing to pay the "two bites" demanded by John who wanted to get rich "alle samee Melican man." It is unnecessary to add that John had the size on his "Melican" customer and that Brannon was finally forced to send out and borrow two bits and take his shirt. This, I say, Brannon stoutly denied and continued to levy blackmail upon me until I adopted a new policy. My motto was, "Millions for defense but not a cent for cigars."

This so incensed my companion that he has attempted, and perhaps partially succeeded in subsidizing the press. He has bribed one newspaper to take his side, that I know of. But enough of this; before leaving Colorado I have only to say that among her other institutions she has a wide awake paper to represent her, viz: the *Clipper*, and that this paper seems to enjoy a hearty patronage.

Abilene is situated some sixty miles east of Colorado and is also surrounded by a fine grazing country. What Abilene most needs at present is a good hotel and this want will be supplied at an early day as builders are now at work on the construction of an elegant building near the railroad which when completed will be taken charge of by Maj. H. M. Stocking, who now has an elegant dining hall where passengers are fed beautifully as the train stops here twice a day for meals. It is not necessary to state that Cameron & Company have acres of lumber at this place for it is well known that this firm has lumber in every Texas town of note. Smith & Stephens are the principle bankers of Abilene. They also handle large quantities of merchandise. Charlie Goldberger is yet at Abilene with a big stock of goods and Cameron & Phillips have a stock of hardware that would be a credit to any city in the state. One is surprised to find such an immense store where only a few months ago the cow-boy and the prairie dog only roamed. M. G. Terry also has a large store on the south side of the railroad. N. Porter has a fine saddlery establishment and J. W. Red & Co., keep, I do reckon, more and better liquors than any firm in the west.

The daily GAZETTE may be found on sale in Abilene at B. Yates's drug store on south side of the road.

My old friend W. T. Berry has, I regretted to learn, been for several weeks confined to his room with a fever. I hope to see him on the streets when I visit the place again. Abilene is constantly building up, and will no doubt continue to be a prosperous town, as it enjoys a lucrative trade with Concho and other inland towns.

The east-bound train was on time Friday, and boarding it we soon found ourselves at

Baird safely housed at the Miller House, where we were made entirely comfortable and happy. Baird is fortunate in having two good hotels, the Miller House and the Sigle House. Both of them treat travelers well. J. F. Patterson keeps a livery stable, where the best of teams and vehicles may be hired; and as for whiskies, wines, etc., you have only to go to the Crystal Palace saloon, where J. M. Walker & Co. have the finest of everything in that line. Among the pleasant men I met at Baird I remember T. A. Cochran of the late firm of Kerr, Cochran & Bibb. Mr. Bibb of this firm, after remaining in the business for one year, has just sold out to his partners at a net profit of 66 2/3 per cent. of the capital he had invested. Mr. Cochran had at Baird eighteen thoroughbred Durham bulls and one cow just shipped from Shelby county, Ill. These he intends turning out on the range at once with his other cattle. I also met Mr. E. F. Wagner of Wagner Bros., whose ranch is near Baird, and my old friend D. H. Olds. Mr. W. R. Lotz of the *Clarendon* was around on the streets with a face as pleasant as if he were coining money, with his press and I suppose he is.

From Baird Brannon and I shipped ourselves as freight to Cisco at which place I only stayed long enough to get supper at the Hickman House, and then came the pain of parting with my traveling companion. I fell on his neck and wept and he wept tears all over my shirt front and then I induced him to get the socks he borrowed from me out of his grip and place them in mine, and then, "All aboard for the east bound passenger," shouted the bus driver, and this story is finished.

SLADE.

Mr. R. E. Luhn, Brenham, says: "I have sold a great deal of Brown's Iron Bitters and have heard parties speak highly of it."

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